

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06  
CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 AGRE-00 /105 W  
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R 011425Z FEB 77  
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4921  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 0274

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EGEN, PGOV, CA  
SUBJECT: MINISTER CHRETIEN REACTS TO LEVESQUE, ALLEGES GENERAL NEGATIVE  
VIEW OF CANADAIN ECONOMY EXCESSIVE

1. FEDERAL MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE JEAN CHRETIEN PUT ASIDE HIS PREPARED TEXT IN ADDRESSING THE "CONFERENCE FOR SURVIVAL" HELD AT TORONTO'S INN-ON-THE-PARK JANUARY 26 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FINANCIAL POST, THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND AIR CANADA. WHILE HE INCORPORATED MANY ASPECTS OF HIS PREPARED REMARKS INTO HIS RAMBLING PRESENTATION, THE MAIN THRUST WAS A REACTION TO THE NEW YORK ADDRESS OF QUEBEC PREMIER LEVESQUE THE NIGHT BEFORE.

2. THE MINISTER TOOK THE CONFERENCE THEME OF SURVIVAL AND TRANSLATED IT FROM ITS INTENDED USE REGARDING THE ECONOMY TO A MORE GENERAL TERM. HE SAID THAT HE WONDERED IF CANADA COULD SURVIVE AND HOPED THE SAME PROBLEM FACED LOT OF CANADIANS. CAN CANADA SURVIVE? I THINK WE CAN SURVIVE. BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT ALL CANADIANS WHO BELIEVE IN CANADA STAND UP AND SPEAK FOR CANADA ALL OVER THE PLACE." THE MINISTER CONTINUED THAT IN HIS TWO  
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TRIPS TO THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS, THE FIRST QUESTION OF BANKERS, INVESTORS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES, "THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE MONEY IN CANADA, WHO ARE PLANNING TO HAVE MONEY IN CANADA" WAS ALWAYS THE SAME; "WHAT'S GOING ON UP NORTH IN CANADA?" CHRETIEN ADMITTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH, UNEMPLOYMENT, ETC., BUT THAT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO FIRST DISCUSS THE "LARGER PROBLEM" AS THE "ECONOMIC SURVIVAL OF

CANADA IS RELATED TO THE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL OF QUEBEC WITHIN CONFEDERATION." HE SAID THAT THE SURVIVAL OF CANADA "IS AT STAKE AT THE TIME AND THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ANYONE TO BE COMPLACENT ABOUT IT" AND REGRETTED THE MISINFORMATION PREVALENT IN THE REST OF CANADA ABOUT QUEBEC AND THE PAYMENTS AND GRANTS IT RECEIVES UNDER CONFEDERATION.

3. MINISTER CHRETIEN WORKED INTO HIS SPEECH ELEMENTS FROM HIS PREPARED TEXT ATTACKING WHAT HE CLAIMED WERE EXAGGERATIONS ON CANADA'S NEGATIVE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND SUGGESTED WAYS IN WHICH HIS MINISTRY WAS STRIVING TO AFFECT GREATER PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND MORE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS NO TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINISTER'S ACTUAL REMARKS, THE CONSULATE GENERAL, THANKS TO USIS CONTACTS, HAS LISTENED TO A RECORDING OF THE MINISTER'S SPEECH. WHAT IS MOST SURPRISING IN LISTENING TO THE RECORDING IS THAT CHRETIEN'S OFTEN EMOTIONAL REMARKS ABOUT CANADA AND CONFEDERATION APPEARED TO HAVE ELICITED NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE FROM THE BUSINESSMEN ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE AND THAT, WHILE THERE WAS GOOD APPLAUSE AT THE END OF THE SPEECH, THERE WAS NOT ONE AUDIBLE INTERRUPTION FOR APPLAUSE DURING THE REMARKS. CONSIDERING THAT THIS WAS A PRIMARILY ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADIAN AUDIENCE FROM THE BUSINESS WORLD THE MORNING AFTER THE LEVESQUE SPEECH, IT SEEMS A VERY STRANGE REACTION INDEED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** MINISTER CHRETIEN REACTS TO LEVESQUE, ALLEGES GENERAL NEGATIVE VIEW OF CANADIAN ECONOMY EXCESSIVE  
**TAGS:** EGEN, PGOV, CA, (CHRETIEN, JEAN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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